Blue Finance 2026

Delivered by OCF

Financing nature recovery — from capital markets to the coast.

Wednesday 11 November 2026

One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London

About the day

The inaugural Blue Finance in 2025 convened over 200 people from across finance, government, industry and ocean sustainability, and made the macro case for investing in the ocean. That case is now made. The question for 2026 is more practical, and more uncomfortable: the capital exists, so why isn't it reaching the coast?

Blue Finance 2026 follows the journey money has to make — from institutional capital markets to the coast itself, and to the businesses, large and small, whose decisions determine what actually happens in the water. It asks how the UK reshapes that pathway well enough to become a model others follow.

David Tudor · david@coastms.co.uk

Blue Finance 2026 — the four tracks

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The day follows the journey capital has to make. Each track is a themed strand holding several sessions, tracing the routes money travels from where it sits to where the recovery happens — through investment, through the standards that make it possible, and through the decisions of businesses, large and small, that shape what happens in the water.

A Scaling the market

Building investable natural capital markets for marine nature

Natural capital markets are the most active area of UK ocean finance right now — blue carbon, marine net gain, nutrient neutrality and biodiversity credits are where the Crown Estate, devolved governments, regulators and private buyers are all currently working. But markets only scale if buyers trust what they're buying, sellers can deliver what they promise, and the shared infrastructure exists to prove it. This track examines how the UK builds credible, investable marine markets — and what's still missing.

On the agenda

- Where UK marine markets stand today — blue carbon, marine net gain, nutrient neutrality, biodiversity credits
- Live in practice — what UK pilots are learning about making markets real
- What makes a marine credit investable — additionality, permanence, verification
- Offshore wind and the Marine Recovery Fund — is strategic compensation a market, or a workaround?
- Shared MRV and data infrastructure — who pays for the plumbing markets need
- Who's actually buying, and what they're willing to pay for

B Blended finance and catalytic capital

Making public and philanthropic money work harder

Public funding is under pressure — so every pound of public or philanthropic money has to pull in far more private capital behind it. This track examines the structures that de-risk private investment — first-loss layers, guarantees, concessional capital and blended vehicles — and asks what institutional and product gaps the UK still has to close.

On the agenda

- First-loss, guarantees and concessional capital — what actually crowds money in
- Designing a blended vehicle: worked examples from the UK and beyond
- What investors need to see before committing at ticket sizes that matter
- Institutional and product gaps — what other jurisdictions have built that the UK hasn't

C The last mile

Getting finance to communities and the coast

This is the heart of Blue Finance 2026. Capital accumulates at the top; the people who deliver nature recovery — coastal communities and the project developers who work with them — operate at a scale finance isn't built to serve, in a marine space that's contested and heavily consented. This track asks how money actually reaches the last mile, and what has to change so it can.

On the agenda

- Why the coast can't access capital — ticket sizes, risk, capacity
- Can restoration be delivered at the scale, cost and reliability investment requires?
- Aggregation and intermediaries — bundling small projects into investable pipelines
- Marine spatial planning, permitting and social licence as the binding constraints

D Procurement, disclosure and influence

Financing prevention, not just repair

The most under-financed idea in ocean recovery is paying to stop the harm in the first place — and the biggest lever for that isn't new capital, it's the conditions attached to capital and trade that already exist. What corporate buyers require of their supply chains, what investors ask of the companies they hold, and what disclosure rules force into the open all shape practice across marine and coastal sectors, often faster than a fund or a regulator can. This track follows that route to the coast — the one that runs through purchase orders, sourcing standards and disclosure rules rather than funding rounds.

On the agenda

- Buyer power as a lever — how procurement and sourcing standards change practice across seafood, agriculture, shipping, aggregates and tourism
- TNFD and the coming disclosure shift — if nature-related disclosure follows TCFD, what changes for marine and coastal sectors, and who has to act
- The economics of prevention — where each pound goes further, prevention or repair
- Investor and shareholder influence — how capital allocation and stewardship shift corporate behaviour
- Insurance and transition finance — how risk pricing and conditions of cover drive prevention

Draft — themes, sessions and timings subject to change as the programme is finalised.

Contact: David Tudor · david@coastms.co.uk

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Draft programme concept — an illustration of the shape of the day. Sessions and speakers to be confirmed.

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A Scaling the market   B Blended finance and catalytic capital   C The last mile   D Procurement, disclosure and influence

Time	Lecture Theatre	Room A (60)	Room B (60)
09:00	**Registration, coffee & exhibition opens** Marble Hall		
09:45	**Welcome & scene-setting · OCF** David Tudor — "the money exists; it isn't reaching the coast"		
10:00	**Opening keynote** Setting the UK challenge		
10:25	**Plenary panel — Track A: Scaling the market** Where UK natural capital markets have got to — and what's still missing		
11:10	**Coffee & networking** Exhibition		
11:35	B **Track B: Blended finance and catalytic capital** What actually crowds money in — and what the UK hasn't built yet	C **Track C: The last mile** Why capital stops short of the coast — and what closes the gap	**Workshop** Designing a blended vehicle
12:20	**Panel — what has to be true before the money moves** Evidence, risk and readiness, from the buy side	**Roundtable** Who's accountable when a marine credit fails?	**Meet the projects** 6–8 developers pitch to the room
13:00	**Lunch & exhibition** Council Room opens as the investor–developer lounge		
14:00	**Afternoon fireside — when a purchase order moves faster than a regulator** How buyers and investors change practice at sea		
14:30	D **Track D: Procurement, disclosure and influence** Financing prevention, not just repair	**Workshop** Aggregation in practice	**Roundtable** The gap between what developers need and investors offer
15:20	**Coffee & networking**		
15:45	**Closing plenary — what moves the money now** Track chairs report back · a call to action		
16:30	**Close of conference**		
17:00	**Evening drinks reception · TBC** Marble Hall or Council Room · until ~19:00		

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